

NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES 9 January 2020

Call to Order: President Bob Jaffin called the meeting to order at 1839 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled followed by the invocation delivered by Gary Terhune.

Attending: Balcom, Burdett, Burdo, Coulter, J. Day, S. Day, Hadley, Jaffin, LeFebvre, Luti, McLean, Terhune.

Swearing In of New Board Directors: The Secretary called the names Peter Burdett and David Hadley to come forward [they had missed the swearing in at the November meeting]. President Bob Jaffin proceeded to swear them in. Bob then announced that we now have a quorum!

Opening Remarks: Bob Jaffin welcomed everyone and said he wanted to move the meeting along quickly. He mentioned that he had received a formal letter of resignation from Geoff Corson. That leaves us “hurting” for a number of positions.

Immediate Past President Remarks: Warren Coulter wished everyone a Happy New Year and deferred to Peter Burdett. Peter had several items he wanted to mention. He began by talking about Easter Seals/Veterans Count. He said he learned that veteran suicides decrease when wages increase. There was mention of raising the minimum wage but Peter believes it is better to encourage people to get better paying jobs. He then mentioned the shooting down of the Ukrainian aircraft by the Iranians. He then mentioned the upcoming speaker at the Wardroom Club who is the Commander of the First Coast Guard District.

Secretary’s Report: Michael McLean repeated that we barely have a quorum. He reported that he received several comments on the November 2019 minutes. The majority concerned whether the meeting actually took place as we did not have a quorum. He received one suggested correction. Under **Other Old Business**, substitute the following for the third sentence (“Sharon said she didn’t think it was worth that.”) “Sharon said it she did not think it warranted a Letter of Appreciation. A public “thank you” for quickly agreeing to help when called upon was more appropriate.” If no one had any other comments, Michael asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the November minutes. Motion passed and minutes accepted.

Treasurer’s Report: Roby Day asked if anyone had any questions on the December report. He said that we are solvent. He went on to discuss the end of year numbers and the preparation of the IRS Form 990. He mentioned that the nose count for the January Luncheon is 53 including what he received tonight. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Motion passed and the report accepted.

Trustees of the Trust Fund: Andrew Breuder not present. Gary Terhune summarized the figures for the month of December.

OLD BUSINESS:

Vacancies: Bob Jaffin brought up a chart that Michael McLean had made that shows the average number of attendees at luncheons on a yearly basis. He pointed out that the average number in 2019 was a reduction of greater than 50% reduction of what it was in 2002. He commented that if Roby [Day] or Michael [McLean] decided to walk out, the chapter would be a bad shape. He said we need to start succession planning. We need to get the Board back up. Bob brought up the idea of trying to increase the membership in the chapter beyond those currently eligible to join. He brought up several groups of individuals he had in mind, such as the Merchant Marine. Bob went on to say that he thought we need to be active in community outreach, beyond the veteran community. He then came back to the need to fill the Board vacancies and what incentives we need to do that.

NEW BUSINESS:

5-Star LOE submissions: Bob Jaffin said it is not too early to start working on it. He asked Michael McLean for the status. Michael stated that MOAA has not yet released the format for this year's submissions. He did mention that MOAA has gone back to a sliding scale in determining the points awarded for the percentage of chapter members who are national members. Michael went on to comment on the problem we had last year with MOAA's formatting requirements. They required a certain number of characters per response. After getting our inputs within that number, we found out that MOAA counter spaces as well as characters. It was a scramble to fix the problem, but Michael found a way around the problem. Michael was hoping to have inputs by February. He then has to format the inputs to get them to MOAA by the deadline of 1 May. As soon as Michael has the format requirements from national, he will send out an email to everyone with what he needs.

BREAK FOR DINNER

Reconvened Meeting at 1930

Scholarship Loan Program: Wayne Balcom commented that he believes that he will take over Scholarship. Bob Jaffin said we need to reexamine what exactly is our Scholarship Program, how we want to structure it, what we want to do with it. He hopes we can answer these questions by the end of the March Board meeting.

BOD meeting frequency: Bob Jaffin suggested that we go down to six meetings a year rather than the twelve now. He said he reviewed the by-laws and there is nothing preventing that. He went on to say that the only report required that he could find in the by-laws was the Trust Fund report required quarterly. He mentioned that he thinks that, by reducing the number of meetings, we will have an easier sell trying to find people for Board positions. He said that he is

not recommending changing the nights of the meetings nor the venue. Bob said he talked with the Red Blazer people who he said did not have a problem with our reducing the number of meetings. Gary Terhune asked if there would be a problem with minimum number of meetings for MOAA's LOE requirements. Michael McLean replied that there used to be but not anymore. Jim LeFebvre asked if the Red Blazer needs to know which months we will meet. Bob replied definitely; it would have to be planned out for the entire year. He believes that the meetings should coincide with the luncheons schedule. Peter Burdett suggested that, for the moment, we cancel the February meeting as there may be weather issues as well. Peter moved that we cancel the February Board meeting and meet in March. Motion seconded. Roby Day brought up the point that there are a number of Board members not present for the discussion. It was mentioned that we do have a quorum this evening. It was agreed that people should show up in March if they want to raise any concerns. Bob said he will send out an email to the Board members with his proposed schedule of Board meetings for the remainder of this year. The motion was carried with one nay [Michael McLean].

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count): Peter Burdett began by saying they had some "extraordinary" attendance at the last SVAC meeting with a number of MOAA-NH members there. He went on to summarize the SVAC meeting to include among others that there are efforts to organize a rifle detail to render honors at veteran funerals. Peter mentioned that the SVAC has a budget now with \$933.00 in the bank. They had a presentation from the CEO of an outfit called "The Northeast Outreach Center" that provides many of the things that Veterans Count does. They had a talk by a person who is a Purple Heart Community Project Advocate who is trying to get communities to recognize Purple Hearts. They will provide a sign to the communities saying that they are a Purple Heart community. They had briefings by both directors of the WRJ and Manchester VAMCs. He covered several subjects that were included in these briefings. They then had discussions on a number of LSRs (Legislative Service Requests) before the legislation.

Personal Affairs: Vacant.

Membership: Michael McLean provided the following membership numbers:

| | <u>12/31/19</u> | <u>January</u> |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| New members - | 1 | 0 |
| Deceased members - | 4 (plus 1 Honorary) | 0 (plus 1 w/ spouse) |
| Dropped members - | 0 | 0 |
| Current total membership – | 691 | 691 |

297 dues letters for 2020 will be mailed tomorrow.

280 Regular [14 – 2018/266 -2019]

17 Auxiliary [1 – 2018/16 – 2019]

2019 Membership Summary:

30 Joined

17 Died

29 Dropped

Membership End Of Year Summary 2019 sheets will be provided by email.

Recruiting: Jim Spotts not present. Michael McLean reported that MOAA's "Near Real Time Notification" (NRT) report for December included 5 names of possible recruits. He sent out 3 letters (1 had been sent a recruiting letter in the past so he did not include him and 1 was a former chapter member dropped.) Their NRT report for January 2020 included 26 names of possible recruits. He will send out 20 letters (5 had been sent a recruiting letter in the past so he did not include them and 1 is a chapter member.) MOAA's "do not contact" list of names of people who do not want email communication from chapters is 715 this month. Michael is continuing to ignore this list as it still includes our chapter members on it.

Programs: Gerry Boyle not present. Michael McLean asked if we are on track for the January Luncheon. Bob Jaffin replied that everything is on track. Michael asked Jim LeFebvre if there was anything further on the June Luncheon. Jim replied that there is nothing new. Michael repeated that he had a list of due dates for flyers to go to the printer if anyone was interested.

Web Page: Michael McLean reported that there were 488 hits in November and 326 hits in December.

Popular Pages in November:

| <u>Hits</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 75 | Program Notes |
| 37 | Hot Items |
| 28 | Chapter News |
| 27 | Tricare |
| 20 | Membership |
| 18 | Odds and Ends |
| 18 | Newsletter |
| 7 | Group Travel |
| 6 | Transition Assistance |
| 5 | GSWA |
| 218 | General |

Popular Pages in December:

| <u>Hits</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 19 | Hot Items |
| 17 | Program Notes |
| 16 | Odds and Ends |
| 14 | Chapter News |
| 10 | Newsletter |
| 9 | Membership |
| 5 | Group Travel |
| 3 | Transition Assistance |
| 1 | Virtual Store |
| 1 | UNK |
| 176 | General |

Michael will submit our web site for MOAA's Communications Award contest later this month.

Travel Programs: Tony Burdo reported that he will be meeting with our Collette District Manager on Tuesday, 21 January to develop our 2021 travel program. Geoff Corson sent out a blast email message asking chapter members if they are interested in a trip anywhere in the world. He received three replies. Tony said he did not think we should offer more than eight trips. Bob Jaffin asked if we looked into a Mississippi Cruise. Tony said that fell out because Collette doesn't do them and the people that do wouldn't give us a commission. Tony said we have ten travelers scheduled for trips in 2020.

Scholarship Loan Program: VACANT. Peter Burdett said we should be thankful that we have someone willing to take over the program. He said that Joe DiChiaro is still receiving payback checks. Peter said that it is fast approaching the time when we need to get applications out for the next school year. He commented that it would be worthwhile for Wayne Balcom to sit down with Joe to go over everything. Roby Day brought up that he spoke with Joe about how the money is handled. Roby said the Treasurer should know where the Scholarship money was

and who was paying what. Roby said he can not do it now. Bob Jaffin said that is one reason why we need to look at the Scholarship Committee in general.

Granite State Warriors Award: Bruce Avery not present. Sharon Day asked who will be running the GSWA program now. Peter Burdett said Ray D'Amante. Peter went on to say that everything was on track for the January Luncheon.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Awards: Joe DiChiaro not present.

NH Veterans Home: Joe DiChiaro not present.

Nominations (Directors): Sharon Day discussed whether Bruce Avery would continue as a Director. She said that she asked Warren Coulter to approach David Frye to see if he would be a Director. She also said she had someone in mind to replace Geoff Corson who resigned. Bob Jaffin suggested that we approach David Hunt or his wife, both of whom are chapter members.

Nominations (Officers): No report.

PAO: VACANT.

Granite Slate: Marie Chipola not present.

Web Communications - FB: Jon VanGuilder not present.

Joint Military Task Force (SUD committee): Andrew Breuder not present.

Blast Email: Geoff Corson not present. He told Bob Jaffin that he would continue for the present, but we need to look for a replacement for him.

LIAISONS:

ESGR: Sandy Way not present. Peter Burdett reported that they are repairing the two KC-46's to be able to carry passengers and cargo. Two more aircraft are scheduled to arrive shortly.

Transition Liaison: Jim LeFebvre had no report. He had a comment on the Board of Directors. He said we should look up in the North Country for possible Board members. He also said that a number of local American Legion leaders are officers. Perhaps they might assist in our recruiting. He did have a question concerning the vacancies advertisement to go in the newsletter. One position said the person did not need to be a chapter member. Jim wondered whether that should apply to any or all of the vacancies. It was agreed that it should be considered.

VAMC Manchester: Bernie Satterfield not present. He submitted the **attached** report:

Martins Point: Bob Jaffin said that he has no report on Martin's Point. Peter Burdett commented that he and his wife have gotten in to Martin Point's "Generation s Advantage" Program. He is impressed with it and summarized some of the benefits. Bill Luti pointed out that

you need to check that your provider is on their list. There was further discussion on the various features and benefits.

Auxiliary: Gwen Devoe not present. She submitted a report outlining the deaths that she was aware of and the cards and calls she made.

Last Minute Items: Peter Burdett mentioned that chapter member LTC Brenda Pennels, USAR has been named as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for Maine. Roby Day brought up that we have over \$800 in our veterans contributions account. He said he needs a Board decision where to spend the money.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will begin at 1830 on Thursday, 12 March 2020 at the Red Blazer in Concord, NH.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2034 hours.

Michael A. McLean
CDR, USN (Ret.)
Secretary
New Hampshire Chapter

Attachment: 1

Manchester VAMC Award

BEDFORD, Mass, Dec. 19 – VA New England employees received top honors recently from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the annual Excellence in Nursing and for the Advancement of Nursing award program.

Receiving awards for outstanding professional performance in serving Veterans and in benefiting VA's nursing community were: Alfred A. Montoya, Jr., VA Connecticut Healthcare System medical center director in the director's category; **Bernadette Y. Jao, Manchester VA Medical Center nurse executive in the Nurse Executive category**; and Bernard Simoneau, VA Central Western Massachusetts Healthcare System telehealth clinical technician in the Health Care Technology category.

The SECVA awards are given to individuals who have been nominated by their colleagues for outstanding service to Veterans and to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

[https://www.manchester.va.gov/pressreleases/VA New England garners three VA excellence awards for Nursing.aspx](https://www.manchester.va.gov/pressreleases/VA%20New%20England%20garners%20three%20VA%20excellence%20awards%20for%20Nursing.aspx)

VAMC EVENTS

CALL 603-624-4366 AND ASK FOR ASSISTANCE.

Functional Fitness (consult req) - General

Jan 7, 2020 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (EST)
Solarium-Basement Level

Tai Chi for Better Balance - General

Jan 7, 2020 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (EST)
Wellness Center at Brady Sullivan Tower Suite 200

Women's Wellness Group - General

Jan 8, 2020 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (EST)
Wellness Center at Brady Sullivan Tower

Yoga for Well-Being - General

Jan 8, 2020 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (EST)
Solarium-Basement Level

Mindfulness Group - General

Jan 8, 2020 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (EST)
Primary Care-First Floor

RxRelax Yoga (seated yoga) - General

Jan 8, 2020 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM (EST)
Training & Education Room-First Floor

Healthy Teaching Kitchen - General

Jan 9, 2020 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (EST)
Meets outside the Training & Education Room-First Floor

Tai Chi Moving for Better Balance - General

Jan 9, 2020 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (EST)
Basement-Solarium

Whole Health Nutrition - General

Jan 9, 2020 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (EST)
Solarium-Basement Level

Veteran Yoga for Well-Being - General

Jan 9, 2020 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM (EST)
Concord GoodLife & Activiti